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SUBJECT: RUSSIA UNDECIDED ON INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY

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(SBU) On May 17, Post's Environment Specialist discussed reftel talking points with Maria Korznikova, Chief of the Renewable Energy Section at the Russian Ministry of Energy. Korznikova said that the Ministry has not arrived at a position on joining IRENA or on the choice of the agency's headquarters or Director General. The Ministry is aware of the June 28-30 International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) preparatory meeting in Egypt but has not received an invitation and, given the late date, is unlikely to attend. Russian representatives also did not take part in the founding meeting in January because they received the invitation too late. Korznikova said that Deputy Prime Minister Igor Sechin, who oversees the energy sector, is aware of the preparations and asked the Energy Ministry for further information on it in December. However, Ministry officials would prefer to make decisions on Russian participation in IRENA only after discussion with other potential members.

BEYRL